

Clinton. He served in my father's administration, as well. Before that, he was U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, making him one of the very few ever to serve as chief Federal prosecutor in two jurisdictions.

Our next FBI Director has given nearly all his career to public service, going back to his days in the Marine Corps. He served with distinction and was decorated during the Vietnam war. As a lawyer, prosecutor, and Government official, he has shown high ideals, a clear sense of purpose, and a tested devotion to his country.

As Director, Mr. Mueller will succeed a good and honest man, Director Louis Freeh, who has my respect and the gratitude of our Nation. I also want to thank Acting Director Pickard, who has served well during this transition.

The FBI has a great tradition that Mr. Mueller must now affirm and some important challenges he must confront. Like the Department of Justice, the FBI must remain independent of politics and uncompromising in its mission.

Bob Mueller's term in office will last longer than my own. And the next 10 years will bring more forms of crime, new threats of terror from beyond our borders and within them. The tools of law enforcement will change, as well. The FBI must be ready to protect Americans from new types

of criminals who will use modern technology to defraud and disrupt our society. The Bureau must secure its rightful place as the premier counterespionage and counterterrorist organization in the United States. It must continue to serve as a resource and training center for law enforcement. And it must do all this with a firm commitment to safeguarding the constitutional rights of our citizens.

Bob Mueller's experience and character convinced me that he's ready to shoulder these responsibilities. Agents of the Bureau prize three virtues above all: fidelity, bravery, and integrity. This new Director is a man who exemplifies them all.

Congratulations.

[At this point, Director-designate Mueller made brief remarks.]

*The President.* Congratulations.

*Director-designate Mueller.* Thank you very much, sir.

*The President.* Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas J. Pickard, Acting Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director-designate Mueller.

## Remarks on Departure for Kennebunkport, Maine, and an Exchange With Reporters

July 5, 2001

### *Education Reform Legislation*

*The President.* Thank you very much. Looking forward to spending the weekend with my family. I know Congress is spending weekends with their families, as well. And when they come back, there's going to be a lot of work to do, and there's nothing more important than getting the education bill to my desk.

I urge Congress to come back to work hard to reconciling differences that may exist between the House and the Senate bill and to get a bill to my desk quickly. It's important to do so. All you've got to do is ask the Governors and superintendents and local officials standing behind me.

These good folks have come to Washington to urge me to urge Congress to get

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the people's business done, because they've got plans to make for the public school-children of America. Behind me are three Governors and superintendents from around the country, education leaders who know full well what is required to plan an education year. And if the rules are to be changed—and I hope they are in a constructive way—Congress must act quickly so people at the local level can plan.

Our bill out of the House and the Senate passed with large majorities and bipartisan support. There's no reason to delay. The Secretary of Education joins me in urging the Congress to act. And I'm confident if the will is there, we can resolve any differences and get the bill to my desk.

This is a good bill. It's a good piece of legislation because it aligns authority and

responsibility at the local level, because it believes in setting high standards. It challenges the soft bigotry of low expectations, and its cornerstone is strong accountability measures so that we can make sure not one single child gets left behind in America.

So I wish the Members of Congress a great weekend, but I remind them the people's work's ahead.

Thank you all for coming.

*Federal Bureau of Investigation*

*Q.* Mr. President, do you feel there needs to be a change in the culture at the FBI?

*The President.* Have a great weekend.

*NOTE:* The President spoke at 2:45 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

## Statement on the Church of God in Christ's Endorsement of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative

*July 5, 2001*

I am pleased to receive the Church of God in Christ's strong endorsement of my Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The Church of God in Christ's support is even greater evidence that people dedicated to serving their communities and neighbors are fully supportive of my plan. This influential organization joins groups including the Roman Catholic Bishops, Salvation Army, Prison Fellowship, and AMEN, our Nation's largest Latino community-serving

ministries network, in supporting this important initiative.

*NOTE:* The statement released by the Office of the Press Secretary noted that the Church of God in Christ was the Nation's second largest historically black congregation, with 5 million members and 16,000 churches nationwide. The Office of the Press Secretary also made available the letter of endorsement from Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Church of God in Christ.